

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

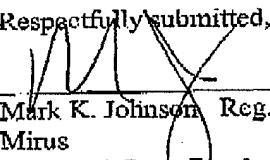
In the Claims: Please cancel all original claims and add new claims 1-12.

1. A process for transfecting a nucleic acid into a cell *in vivo*, comprising:
 - a) attaching a labile membrane activity inhibitor to a membrane active peptide, wherein the inhibitor is detached within the cell;
 - b) adding the peptide to a solution containing the nucleic acid;
 - c) delivering the peptide and nucleic acid to the cell, wherein the peptide and the nucleic acid are endocytosed; and,
 - d) transfecting the cell.
2. The process of claim 1 wherein the peptide consists of pardaxin.
3. The process of claim 1 wherein the peptide consists of KL3.
4. The process of claim 1 wherein the peptide consists of magainin.
5. The process of claim 1 wherein the labile linkage is selected from the group consisting of pII-labile, very pII labile, and extremely pH-labile.
6. The process of claim 1 wherein the labile linkage is selected from the group consisting of disulfide, acetal, ketal, enol ether, enol ester, amide, imine, iminium, enamine, silyl ether, silazane, and silyl enol ether bonds.
7. The process of claim 1 wherein the labile linkage is selected from the group consisting of diols, diazo, ester, sulfone, and silicon-carbon bonds.
8. A process for transfecting a nucleic acid into a cell *in vivo*, comprising:
 - a) attaching a reversible labile membrane activity inhibitor to a melittin peptide wherein the inhibitor is detached upon association with the cell;
 - b) adding the peptide to a solution containing the nucleic acid;
 - c) contacting the peptide and nucleic acid with the cell, wherein the peptide and the nucleic acid are endocytosed; and,
 - d) transfecting the cell.
9. A process for transfecting a nucleic acid into a cell *in vivo*, comprising:
 - a) attaching a reversible labile membrane activity inhibitor to a membrane active polymer wherein the inhibitor is detached upon association with the cell;
 - b) adding the membrane active polymer to a solution containing the nucleic acid;
 - c) contacting the membrane active polymer and nucleic acid with the cell wherein the membrane active polymer and the nucleic acid are endocytosed; and,
 - d) transfecting the cell.

10. The process of claim 9 wherein the labile linkage is selected from the group consisting of pH-labile, very pH labile, and extremely pH-labile.
11. The process of claim 9 wherein the labile linkage is selected from the group consisting of disulfide, acetal, ketal, enol ether, enol ester, amide, imine, imminium, enamine, silyl ether, silazane, and silyl enol ether bonds.
12. The process of claim 11 wherein the labile linkage is selected from the group consisting of diols, diazo, ester, sulfone, and silicon-carbon bonds.


In there arc any questions or problems, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent
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on this date: 15 August 2003.



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